(c) what portion of this surplus foodgrains was exported to China and commodities imported in lieu thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The likely production in 1994-95 is 60.18 million tonnes of wheat and 81.02 million tonnes of rice.

(b) Central Pool Stocks on 1-4-95 were 8.72 million tonnes of wheat and 18.08 million tonnes of rice as against buffer stock norms of 3.7 million tonnes and 10.8 million tonnes of wheat and rice respectively.

(c) There have been no exports of wheat and rice to China in 1994-95 (April-February).

Threat to invoke special-301 by US

6776. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gooovernment's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "US invoke special 301 threat again" appearing in the Indian Express dated 1st May, 1995 wherein it has been stated that US has threatened the country to invoke special 301 for its failure to pass the new patent laws in Parliament;

(b) if so, what are the other facts in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the US threat and the steps taken to meet that threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The USTR has retained India on the Priority Watch List under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, Brazil, Greece, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the EC and South Korea also figure on this list. The USTRs announcement states that the US expects continued progress by all countries in meeting its concerns which includes raising the level of intellectual property protection at least to TRIPs standards, as quickly as possible.

(c) The Priority Watch List is not a category created by US law but an administrative practice. No legally compelling consequences for the US administration flow from this categorisation. Government has noted the US decision. It has been conveyed to the US authorities that such matters should be resolved multilaterally and that unilateral trade measures would not be consistent with the obligation of Member countries under the WTO Agreement.

Advise to Indian Exporters to keep dollar earnings abroad

6777. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consequent upon deceleration in dollar inflows Government are considering to advise Indian exporters to keep their dollar earnings or some more time abroad;

(b) whether the proposed liberalisation of joint ventures abroad will also be affected adversely; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Unnai Medicines

6778. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of Unani Medicines exported to foreign countries during the period 1994-95?